

SMILIN' ED'S

Buster Brown **COMICS**

*Book
No. 23*



Kids! **TUNE IN THE BUSTER BROWN GANG**

Every Saturday Morning WKY 10:30 A. M.

NISSSEN'S, INC.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.





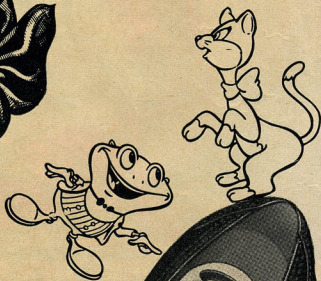
WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

HEY KIDS... IT'S THE BUSTER BROWN *Easter Parade!*



Come and get 'em, kids! Those swell-elegant
Easter Parade Shoes are waiting for you right
now at your nearest Buster Brown dealer's.
His name is on the cover of this comic book.

Tell mom you want a pair for Easter today!
And always look for the picture of Tige and me
in the heel of the shoe you try on. That means
you're getting good ol' Buster Brown Shoes!



The POACHERS

GHANGA IS A NATIVE BOY OF INDIA, AND HE WORKS AS A MAHOUT FOR THE POWERFUL MAHARAJA OF BAKORE. AS A MAHOUT, GHANGA TRAINS AND DRIVES THE GREAT BULL ELEPHANT, TEELA -- AND HERE WE SEE THEM PLUNGING THROUGH THE PERILOUS JUNGLE TOWARD THE MAHARAJA'S PALACE, IN ANSWER TO AN URGENT COMMAND.

CAREFUL, TEELA -- WE WANT NO TROUBLE WITH THAT BIG BLACK PANTHER!



SOON YOUNG GHANGA AND ANOTHER ELEPHANT DRIVER NAMED SINGH STAND BEFORE THE MAHARAJA.

GHANGA AND SINGH, I'VE CALLED YOU TO READ THIS LETTER FROM THE BRITISH REGENT IN BOMBAY.

EXCELLENCY, I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY YOU SPEAK THAT THERE IS SOME NEW TROUBLE IN OUR PROVINCE.



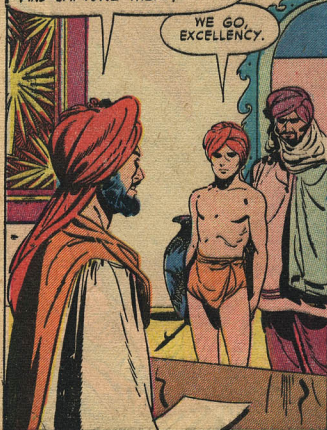
To the Maharaja of Bakore:

Word has come to me that poachers are in your province, and are capturing animals without a permit. They are taking many more than even a permit would allow. They use maiming traps and pitfalls which they never bother to refill, but leave them as dangerous jungle hazards. May I request that you have your trained jungle people search your territory, and either arrest these men or advise me as to their movements.

Respectfully,
Cecil Munn-Colly
REGENT

SINGH, YOU TAKE AN ELEPHANT AND SEARCH THE AREA NEAR THE PADWAR RIVER. GHANGA, TAKE BIG TEELA AND SEARCH THE TERRITORY NEAR THE JHALPAT RAVINE. IF YOU FIND ANY TRACE OF THESE MEN, QUICKLY RETURN TO THE PALACE, AND I WILL TAKE A FORCE OF MEN TO THE SPOT AND CAPTURE THEM!

WE GO, EXCELLENCY.



GHANGA HURRIES TO THE ELEPHANT YARD AND PUTS THE HEAD HARNESS ON BIG TEELA. HE THEN EQUIPS HIMSELF WITH A RIFLE HUNG IN A SCABBARD, A HANDY COIL OF STOUT ROPE, AND OVER HIS SHOULDER IS SLUNG HIS HEAVY HUNTING KNIFE.

WE ARE READY TO GO, TEELA—AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. NOW—SWING ME UP ON YOUR HEAD!



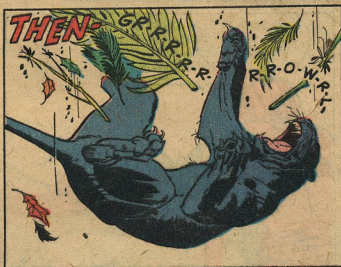
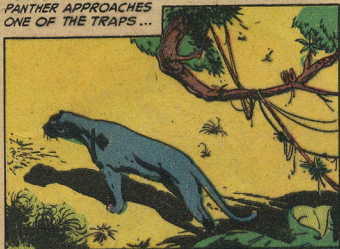
MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, AT A SPOT NEAR JHALPAT RAVINE, THERE IS QUIET ACTIVITY. THE VILLAINOUS POACHERS, MULLINS AND HAWKINS, GIVE ORDERS AS NATIVE DIGGERS SINK ONE PIT AFTER ANOTHER - AND THESE ARE QUICKLY COVERED WITH LIGHT BRANCHES AND JUNGLE GROWTH.

AT THE RATE WE'RE CATCHING THESE BLOOMIN' ANIMALS, WE'LL LEAVE THIS JUNGLE AS RICH MEN, MULLINS!

YOU MEAN IF WE DON'T GET CAUGHT, HAWKINS!



SOON, FROM THE JUNGLE SHADOWS, A BLACK PANTHER APPROACHES ONE OF THE TRAPS ...



TEELA! DID YOU HEAR THAT?-- IT WAS THE VOICE OF A TRAPPED ANIMAL!... MOVE QUIETLY, TEELA!



AND IN A FEW MOMENTS, GHANGA HAS CRAWLED TO THE EDGE OF THE YAWNING PIT THAT HOLDS THE HELPLESS, ANGRY PANTHER.

SO, BLACK ONE! IT SEEMS I AM JUST IN TIME TO SEE YOU FALL VICTIM TO THE JUNGLE THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW SO WELL!



I WISH I COULD MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ONLY TRYING TO HELP YOU, BLACK ONE.

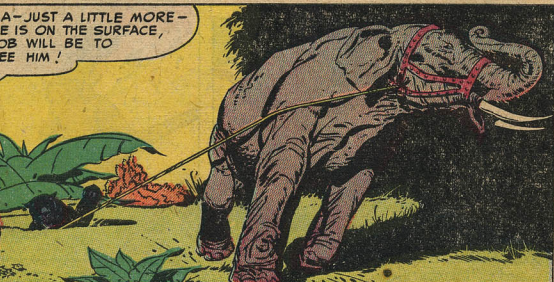
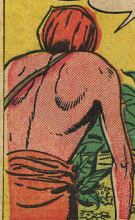


AND GHANGA BRINGS HIS STOUT ROPE INTO PLAY AS HE SUCCEEDS IN DROPPING A LOOP OVER THE PANTHER'S HEAD, AND THEN BACK BEHIND ITS SHOULDERS. THE OTHER END OF THE ROPE IS FASTENED TO BIG TEELA'S HEAD HARNESS, AND THE FURIOUS, HOWLING PANTHER IS RAISED FROM THE PIT AS THE MIGHTY TEELA PULLS AWAY AT GHANGA'S COMMAND.

G-R-R-R-O-W-R-R-R-R-R



GOOD TEELA—JUST A LITTLE MORE—AND WHEN HE IS ON THE SURFACE, MY NEXT JOB WILL BE TO FREE HIM!

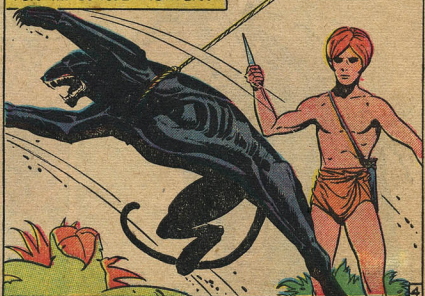


BUT GHANGA HAS NO IDEA THAT THE SLIT-LIKE EYES OF MULLINS THE POACHER, TAKE IN EVERY DETAIL OF THE HATEFUL JUNGLE SCENE.

AH! THAT BLACK PANTHER WOULD BRING PLENTY IN AMERICA!



DRAWING A PANTHER FROM A PITFALL IS ONE THING -- BUT FREEING THE SAVAGE BEAST IS ANOTHER PROBLEM. NOW, WITH HIS READY KNIFE, GHANGA MOVES CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE RAGING CAT, AND WATCHES HIS CHANCE FOR A CLEAN HACK AT THE ROPE -- A STROKE THAT WILL SPELL FREEDOM FOR THE JUNGLE PROWLER!



WITH A QUICK MOVEMENT, GHANGA CUTS THE ROPE, AND LIKE A RELEASED SPRING, THE BIG CAT BOUNDS FORWARD.



THERE!.. AND NEXT TIME BE MORE CAREFUL, BLACK ONE!

THE POACHER MULLINS IS INFURIATED BY THE RELEASE OF THE VALUABLE BLACK PANTHER. HE RAISES HIS RIFLE TO SHOOT GHANGA... BUT THEN HE PAUSES, AND ANOTHER IDEA OCCURS TO HIM...



QUICKLY MULLINS RETURNS TO HIS JUNGLE POACHER CAMP... AND ADDRESSES HIS PARTNER, HAWKINS.

WHAT BLASTED LUCK WE'VE HAD! A FINE BLACK PANTHER DROPS INTO ONE OF THE PITS, AND ALONG COMES SOME KID ON AN ELEPHANT, PULLS THE CAT OUT AND SETS HIM FREE! RIGHT BEFORE MY VERY EYES!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE A SHOT AT THE BRAT?



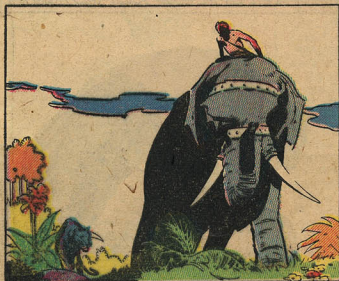
BUT AS GHANGA RIDES TEELA AWAY IN FURTHER SEARCH OF THE POACHERS, THE BLACK PANTHER HAS CIRCLED TO THEIR REAR AND KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE GOOD YOUTH WHO FREED HIM.



-- BECAUSE I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE KID IS ONE OF THE MAHARAJA'S MAHOUTS -- THAT'S WHY! -- AND THERE MIGHT BE OTHERS SEARCHING AROUND WHO WOULD HEAR THE SHOT! BUT, YOU SEE THIS KNIFE?... IT'S SOMETHIN' THAT WORKS NICE AND QUIET!



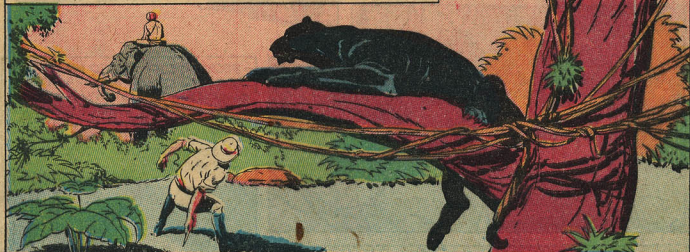
BUT STILL UNAWARE OF ANY DANGER, GHANGA CAUTIOUSLY DRIVES BIG TEELA ON THEIR SEARCH THROUGH THE JUNGLE... AND NOW THE GRATEFUL PANTHER FOLLOWS, NOT FAR BEHIND...



THEN THE WILY JUNGLE BEAST SENSES SOMETHING... WITH THE INSTINCT OF HIS KIND HE SPRINGS TO A LOW LIMB AND CROUCHES-- WITH HIS YELLOW EYES BURNING... AND HERE HE WAITS...



IN A NEARBY CLEARING, THE VILLAINOUS MULLINS IS POISED TO THROW HIS KNIFE AT GHANGA. THE PANTHER'S LITHE BODY STIRS SILENTLY-- HIS MUSCLES TIGHTEN FOR THE SPRING...



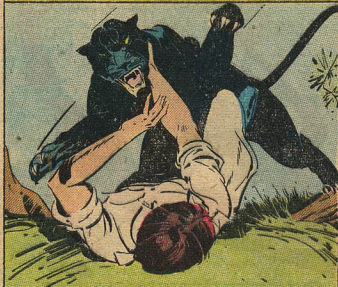
AS MULLINS IS ABOUT TO LET GO WITH THE KNIFE, SILENT JUNGLE DEATH FLIES AT HIS BACK!



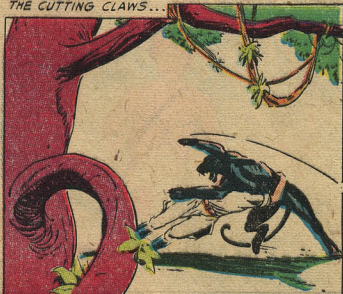
THE KNIFE'S AIM IS BAD-- THE WEAPON FLIES PAST THE SURPRISED GHANGA, AND BURIES ITSELF IN A TREE!



MULLINS IS ON THE GROUND AND WILDLY FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE-- BUT THE PANTHER WILL ONLY BE SATISFIED WITH THE KILL!



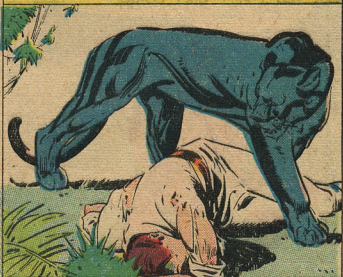
IT IS THE AWFUL UNEVEN STRUGGLE BETWEEN MAN AND THE JUNGLE CAT-- IT CAN'T LAST LONG --THE MAN CAN'T TAKE MANY THRUSTS OF THE CUTTING CLAWS...



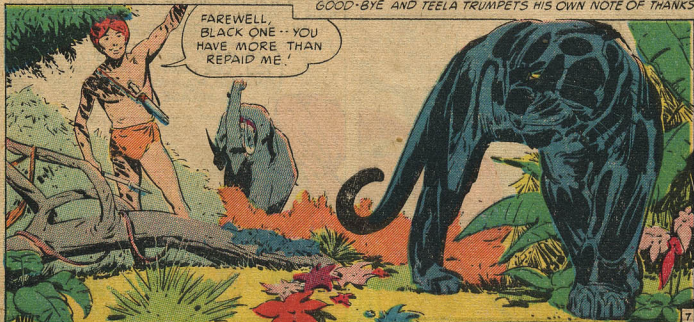
BUT GHANGA RUSHES TO THE POACHER'S RESCUE!



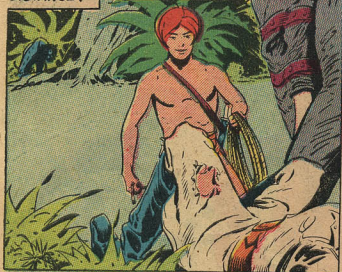
AT GHANGA'S COMMAND, THE BIG CAT RELEASES HIS QUARRY, AND GROWLING SOFTLY, HE STANDS OVER THE BADLY-MAULED FORM OF MULLINS.



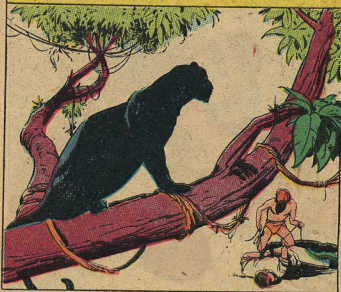
HIS WORK NOW DONE, THE PANTHER STALKS SLOWLY AWAY FROM THE SCENE, WHILE GHANGA WAVES GOOD-BYE AND TEELA TRUMPETS HIS OWN NOTE OF THANKS.



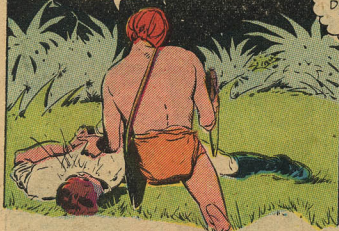
BUT AS GHANGA RETURNS TO THE HELPLESS MULLINS AND MAKES READY TO TIE HIM UP, THE FAITHFUL PANTHER WATCHES FROM THE DISTANCE.



THEN HIGH ON A LIMB THE BEAST REMAINS ON GUARD AS GHANGA BENDS TO HIS TASK OF TYING THE POACHER'S ARMS.

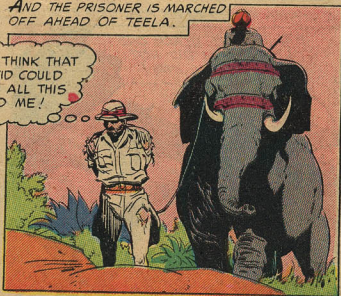


THE MAHARAJA WILL HAVE MUCH TO SAY TO YOU ABOUT YOUR POACHING BUSINESS--AND I CAN'T SAY I FEEL VERY SORRY FOR YOU!



TO THINK THAT A KID COULD DO ALL THIS TO ME!

AND THE PRISONER IS MARCHED OFF AHEAD OF TEELA.



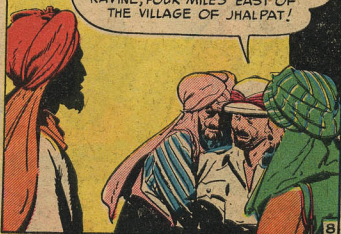
AND A FEW HOURS LATER, GHANGA HAS HIS CAPTIVE BEFORE THE STERN MAHARAJA.

SO--YOU THOUGHT TO POACH IN THE PROVINCE OF BAKORE, EH? WE'VE HAD REPORTS ON YOUR CRUELTY, AND WE WILL NOT STAND FOR IT. WE KNOW YOU ARE NOT WORKING ALONE. WHERE IS YOUR CAMP--AND YOUR COMPANION?

FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF! I AIN'T TALKING!

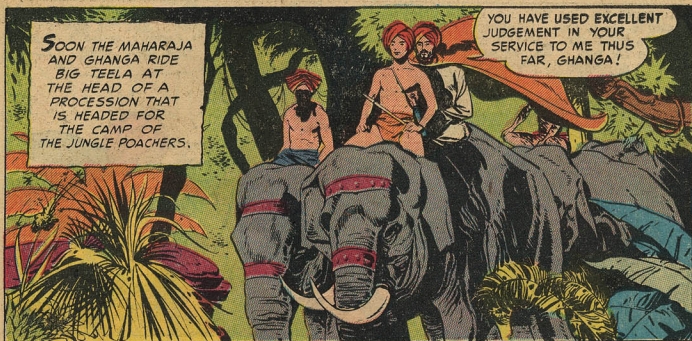
VERY WELL, I AM NOT A CRUEL MAN, AND I DO NOT WISH TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT. HOWEVER, YOUR CRIME IS GRAVE, AND UNLESS YOU TELL ME OF YOUR CAMP AND YOUR COMPANIONS, I CAN PROMISE THAT IT WILL GO THE WORSE FOR YOU!

AWLRIGHT, AWLRIGHT!... I'LL TELL YOU! OUR CAMP IS IN TH' JHALPAT RAVINE, FOUR MILES EAST OF THE VILLAGE OF JHALPAT!



SOON THE MAHARAJA AND GHANGA RIDE THE HEAD OF A PROCESSION THAT IS HEADED FOR THE CAMP OF THE JUNGLE POACHERS.

YOU HAVE USED EXCELLENT JUDGEMENT IN YOUR SERVICE TO ME THUS FAR, GHANGA!



LATER, IN THE JHALPAT RAVINE--THE MEN LEAVE THE ELEPHANTS, AND THE SEARCH IS DIRECTED BY THE MAHARAJA.

BUT THE MAHARAJA AND GHANGA DON'T GO VERY FAR BEFORE THEIR SURPRISED EYES BEHOLD A CAMP. A STARTLED MAN SNATCHES UP HIS RIFLE... HE IS HAWKINS, THE POACHER!

I BELIEVE THE CAMP LIES IN THAT DIRECTION. LET EACH MAN GO SINGLY, BUT WALK AROUND TO THAT AREA, GHANGA AND I WILL GO ALONG TOGETHER!

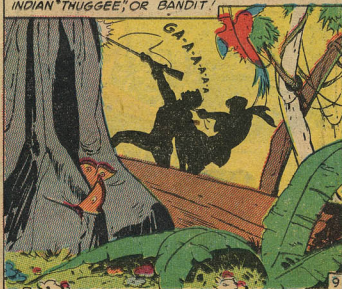
ONE MOMENT, MY FRIEND! PUT DOWN THAT RIFLE! IT WILL BRING YOU MUCH TROUBLE!

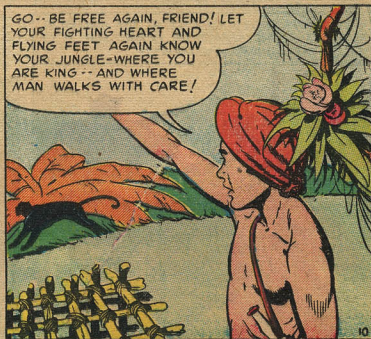
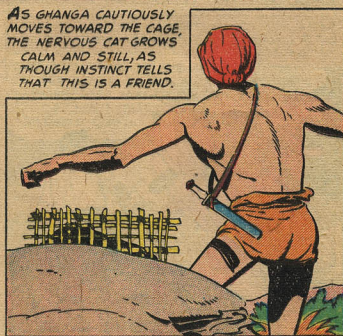
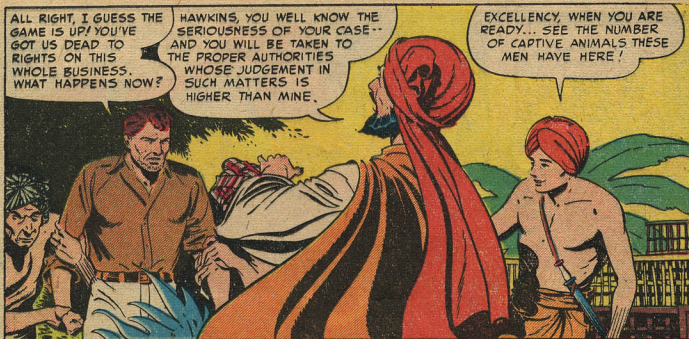
IT'S YOU WHO'LL HAVE THE TROUBLE --UNLESS YOU GET YOUR HANDS UP FAST!



AS HAWKINS LEVELS HIS RIFLE AT THE MAHARAJA, A SILENT FIGURE STEALS UP BEHIND HIM. IT IS SINGH, THE MAHARAJA'S MAHOUT.

THEN!---IN A FLASH, SINGH'S SHORT PIECE OF ROPE AROUND THE NECK SUBDUES HAWKINS. IT IS THE QUICK METHOD USED BY THE EAST INDIAN "THUGGEE"; OR BANDIT!





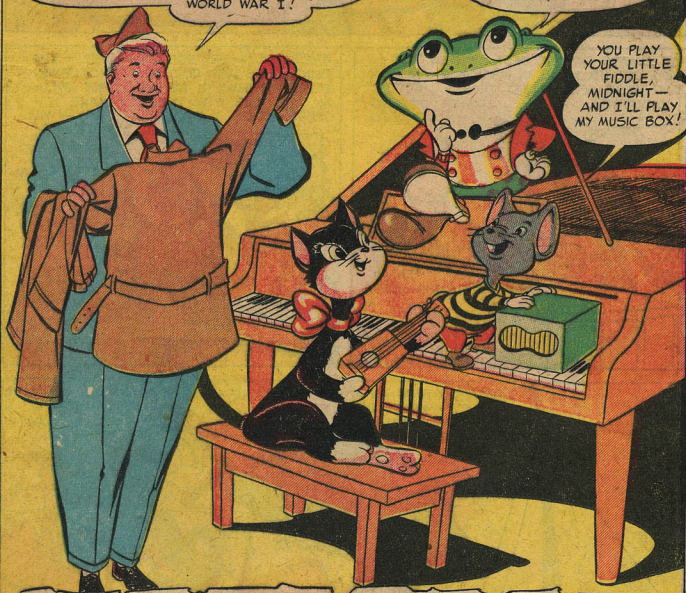
Smilin' Ed AND HIS Gang

ENTERTAIN THE ARMY

MY GOODNESS, WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO COME TO THE ARMY CAMP TO ENTERTAIN THE SOLDIERS, AND WE MUST GET READY IN A HURRY! I'M GOING TO WEAR MY ARMY UNIFORM FROM WORLD WAR I!

NOW LET ME SEE... I SUPPOSE IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE ON SOME CLEVER THINGS FOR US TO DO—IT IS, IT IS!

YOU PLAY YOUR LITTLE FIDDLE, MIDNIGHT—AND I'LL PLAY MY MUSIC BOX!

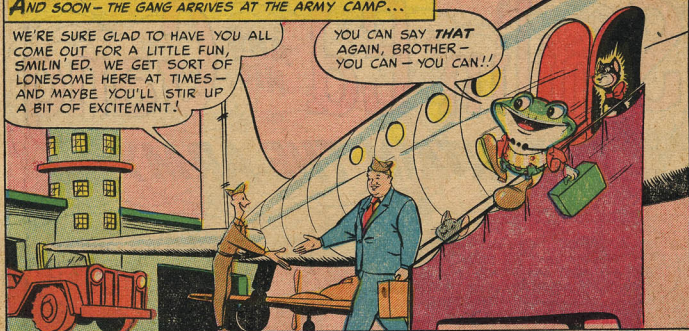


YES, SMILIN' ED AND HIS GANG ARE GOING TO ENTERTAIN THE SOLDIERS IN AN ARMY CAMP. SO, SQUEEKIE THE MOUSE, MIDNIGHT THE CAT AND FROGGY THE GREMLIN GLEEFULLY LOOK FORWARD TO PLENTY OF FUN WITH THE U.S. ARMY!

AND SOON - THE GANG ARRIVES AT THE ARMY CAMP...

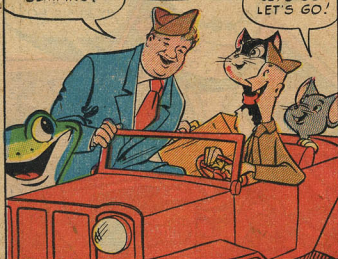
WE'RE SURE GLAD TO HAVE YOU ALL COME OUT FOR A LITTLE FUN, SMILIN' ED. WE GET SORT OF LONESOME HERE AT TIMES - AND MAYBE YOU'LL STIR UP A BIT OF EXCITEMENT.

YOU CAN SAY *THAT* AGAIN, BROTHER - YOU CAN - YOU CAN!!



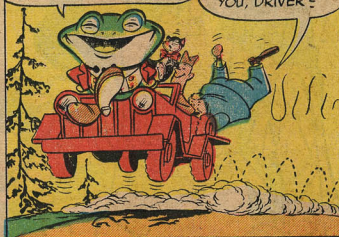
WE ALWAYS DO OUR BEST, SOLDIER! YOU GET US THERE IN THIS JEEP AND WE'LL SOON START THINGS JUMPING.

LET'S GO! LET'S GO!



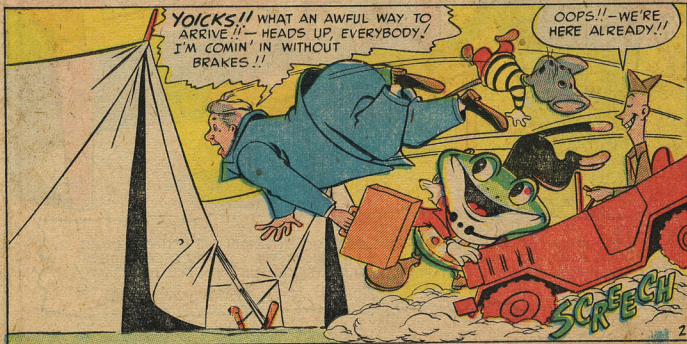
WHEEEEEEE!! - HEY, SOLDIER - DON'T MISS ANY ROCKS!! I LIKE TO STAY IN THE AIR ALL THE TIME WITH THESE JEEPS - I DO, I DO!!

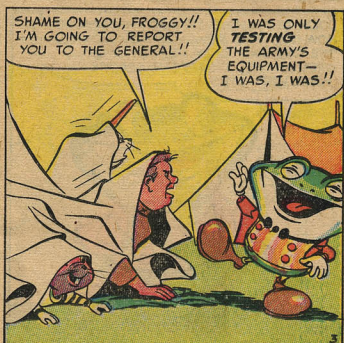
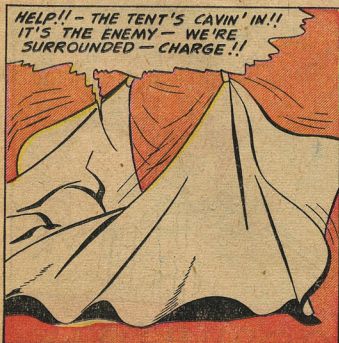
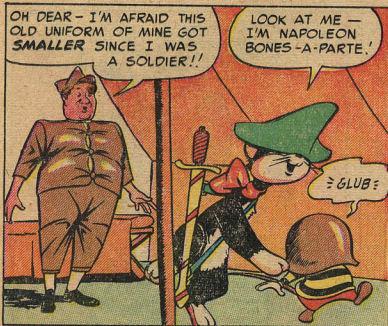
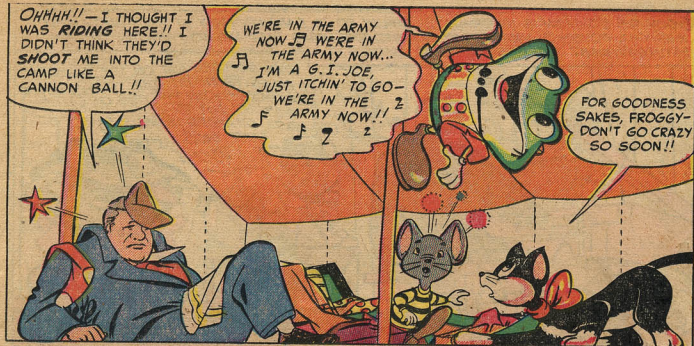
HEY!! - I'M NOT EVEN ALL ON! - TAKE IT EASY - WILL YOU, DRIVER?



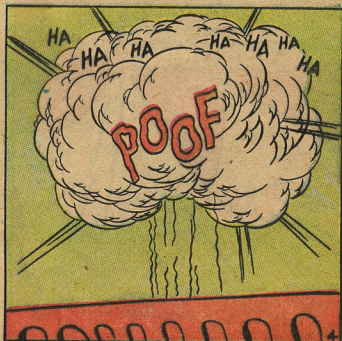
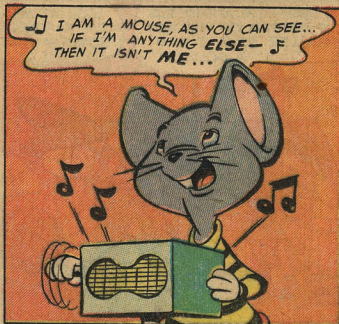
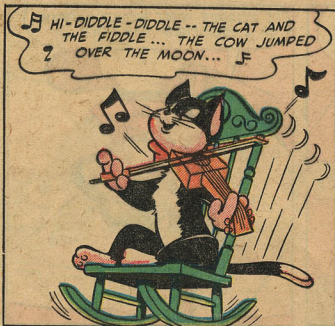
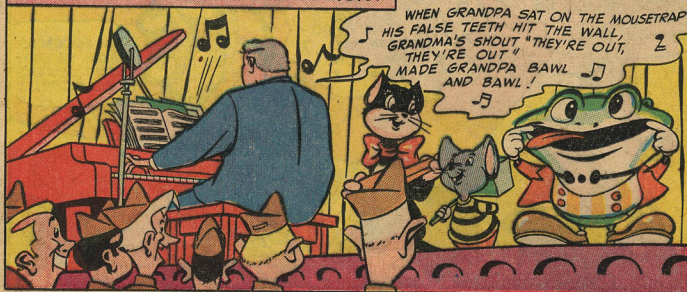
YOICKS!! WHAT AN AWFUL WAY TO ARRIVE!! - HEADS UP, EVERYBODY! I'M COMIN' IN WITHOUT BRAKES!!

OOPS!! - WE'RE HERE ALREADY!!





SOON THE BIG SHOW IS UNDER WAY... SMILIN' ED IS BANGING AWAY AT THE PIANO, WHILE MIDNIGHT, SQUEEKIE AND FROGGY GO INTO THE ANTICS THAT ARE SO FAMILIAR TO THEIR SATURDAY NIGHT TELEVISION AUDIENCE ON N. B. C.

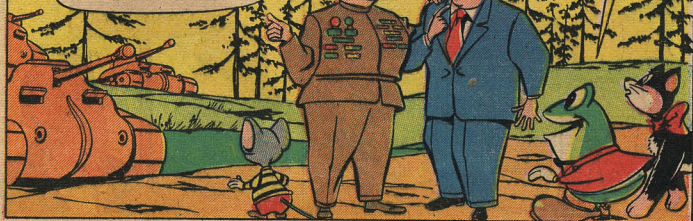


AND AFTER THE SHOW IS OVER...

THANKS FOR THE FINE SHOW, SMILIN' ED - THE MEN CERTAINLY ENJOYED YOU AND YOUR FUNNY GANG. NOW WE'LL ENTERTAIN YOU FOR A CHANGE... WE'LL SHOW YOU SOME TRICKS WITH THESE TANKS!

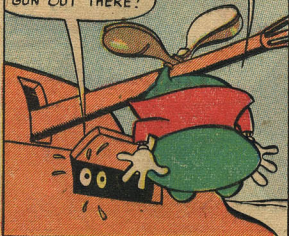
THANK YOU, GENERAL DELIVERY! I MUST SAY THOSE TANKS CERTAINLY LOOK POWERFUL!

HMM... THINK I'LL SEE WHAT THEY'RE LIKE INSIDE... I WILL - I WILL!



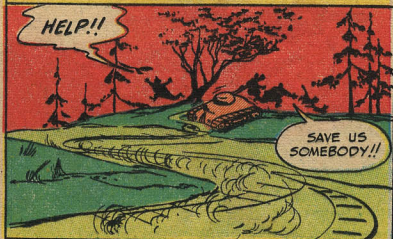
HELLO, CHUM - WHAT'S COOKIN'??

HELP!! THERE'S A CREATURE FROM MARS HANGING ON OUR GUN OUT THERE!

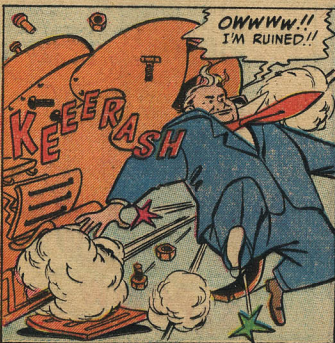


THE TANK GETS OUT OF CONTROL AS THE FRIGHTENED DRIVER ZIG-ZAGS EVERY WAY IN AN EFFORT TO SHAKE OFF FROGGY... AND SMILIN' ED AND THE GENERAL RUN FOR THEIR LIVES AS THE IRON MONSTER SCREECHES TOWARD THEM...

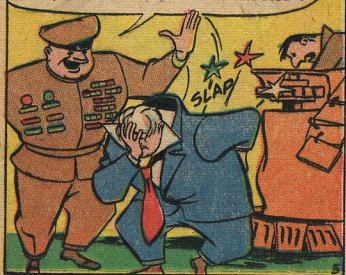
HELP!!



OWWWW!!
I'M RUINED!!



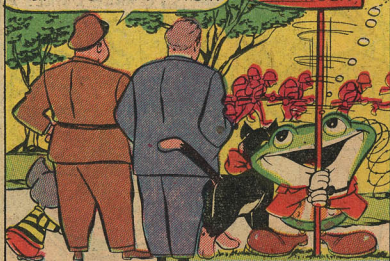
WOW!! - YOU'RE TERRIFIC, SMILIN' ED!! THE ARMY HAS DISCOVERED A REAL ANTI-TANK WEAPON!! - YOU'VE RUINED A TANK, BOY - IT NEVER HAD A CHANCE!!



CHEER UP, SMILIN' ED! NOW WE'LL WATCH THE WAR GAMES. BUT THIS IS DANGEROUS — WE MUST WALK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

THIS CRAZY SIGN IS POINTING THE **WRONG** WAY!

DANGER



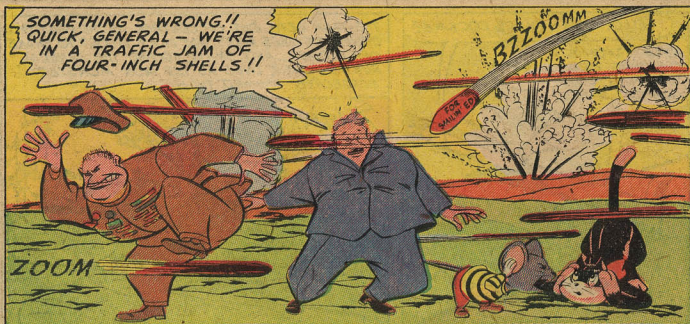
HMM... THAT'S FUNNY! — I THOUGHT THE **DANGEROUS SECTOR** WAS THE **OTHER** WAY... BUT WE'D BETTER GO AS THIS SIGN SAYS...

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'D LIKE TO GO HOME!

DANGER

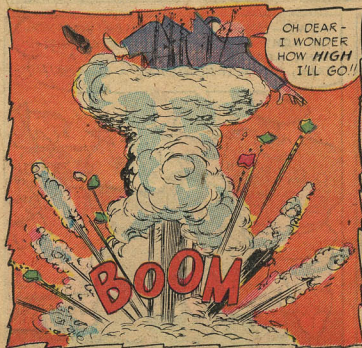


SOMETHING'S WRONG!! QUICK, GENERAL — WE'RE IN A TRAFFIC JAM OF FOUR-INCH SHELLS!!



OH DEAR — I WONDER HOW **HIGH** I'LL GO!!

BOOM



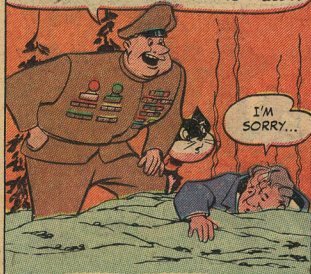
...I WONDER HOW **LOW** I'LL GO!!

SWISH

KAPOWW



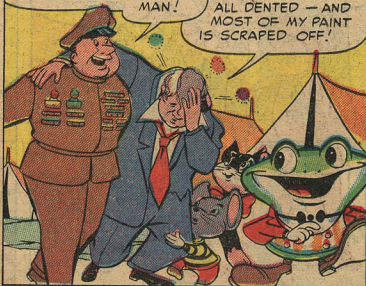
SAY, SMILIN' ED - YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO FALL HARD LIKE THAT-AND MAKE A GREAT BIG SHELL HOLE RIGHT ON OUR TRAINING FIELD!!



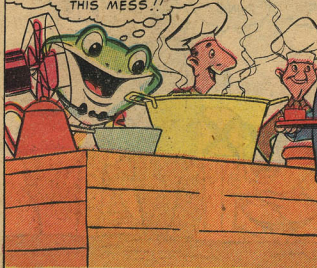
I'M SORRY...

LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT, SMILIN' ED - THEN YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A BRAND NEW MAN!

I'LL NEVER BE NEW AGAIN, GENERAL! - I'M ALL DENTED - AND MOST OF MY PAINT IS SCRAPED OFF!



HMM... I'M NOT A MESS SERGEANT- BUT I THINK I KNOW A WAY TO MAKE A REAL MESS OUT OF THIS MESS!!



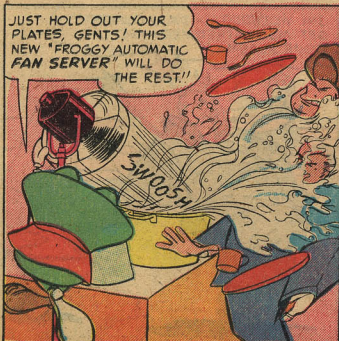
STEP RIGHT UP, SMILIN' ED! - THERE'S NOTHING LIKE GOOD ARMY FOOD TO FAN YOU INTO FIGHTING SHAPE!!



FOOD... NICE!!

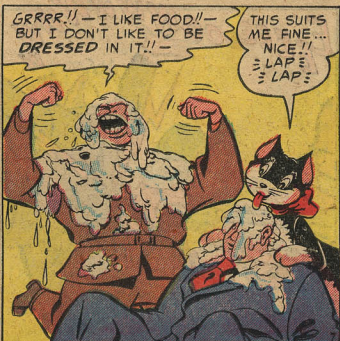


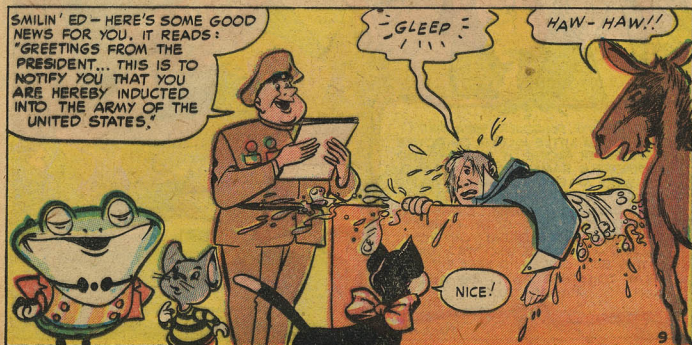
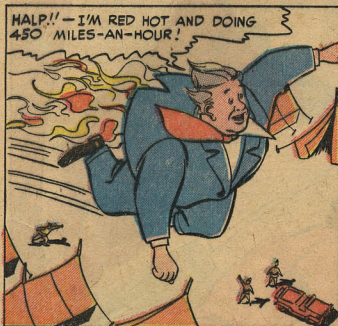
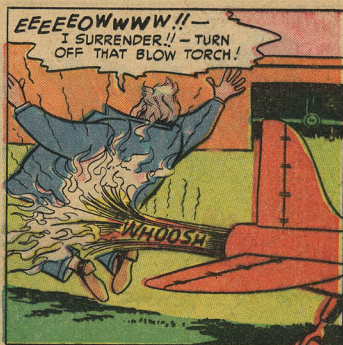
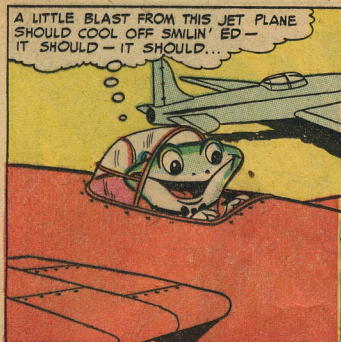
JUST HOLD OUT YOUR PLATES, GENTS! THIS NEW "FROGGY AUTOMATIC FAN SERVER" WILL DO THE REST!!



GRRRR!! - I LIKE FOOD!! - BUT I DON'T LIKE TO BE DRESSED IN IT!! -

THIS SUITS ME FINE... NICE!!
LAP!
LAP!





BLACK LAGOON



ONE DAY THE SCHOONER, "SEA BIRD" CAME TO THE LITTLE ISLAND OF POWEE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT BROUGHT TWO SCOUNDRELS NAMED MASON AND TWIGG WHO WERE AFTER PEARLS--AND THEY'D DO **ANYTHING** TO GET THEM. THE SHIP ALSO BROUGHT A FRIENDLY CHIMPANZEE NAMED COCO, WHO SOON FOUND A GOOD LITTLE FRIEND ON THE ISLAND--A FRIEND WHO WAS THE NATIVE BOY, SUKI...AND HERE THEY PLAY TOGETHER AS TWIGG AND MASON TALK....

I'VE CAUGHT YOU, COCO! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD, AND I HOPE THAT YOU NEVER LEAVE THIS ISLAND!

GLIP!



BUT THE PEARL SEEKERS, MASON AND TWIGG, HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH THINGS AS FUN AND FRIENDSHIP...

I TELL YUH, MASON, WE SHOULD PULL OUT OF THIS ISLAND. ALL THE PEARL BEDS ARE WORKED OUT.

NO, TWIGG--I'VE HEARD THERE'S PEARLS AS BIG AS GOOSE-EGGS RIGHT DOWN HERE IN BLACK LAGOON. OUR JOB IS TO TRY TO GET THE NATIVES TO DIVE FOR US.



BUT SOON TWIGG AND MASON LEARN THAT THE NATIVES WILL NOT DIVE IN THE SHARK-INFESTED WATERS OF THE LAGOON.

NO WONDER EVERY MAN ON THE ISLAND REFUSES TO DIVE FOR US--LOOK AT THOSE SHARKS!

BUT THEIR BIG CHIEF, SUMO, AIN'T TURNED ME DOWN YET. HE'S COMIN' HERE, AN' I THINK I GOT A PLAN TO TALK HIM INTO DIVING!



BUT SUMO, THE ISLAND CHIEF, HAPPENS TO BE THE FATHER OF YOUNG SUKI--AND NOW, WITH COCO TAGGING ALONG, THEY COME FOR THE TALK WITH MASON AND TWIGG.

THERE THEY ARE, FATHER--BY THE WATER'S EDGE.



LOOK, CHIEF SUMO--I KNOW YOU'RE TH' BEST DIVER ON TH' ISLAND, AN' I THINK THERE'S NO REASON FOR TH' OTHERS T'BE SO SURE THAT WE CAN'T LICK THEM SHARKS! IT'S WORTH TH' CHANCE T'GET PEARL BEAUTIES AS ARE DOWN THERE. COME TO OUR BOAT--LEMME SHOW YUH WHAT I CAN PAY YUH, AN' YA'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

I DON'T KNOW--
PLENTY DANGER--



THERE YUH ARE, SUMO!--HOW D'YUH LIKE ALL THEM TOOLS AN' CLOTH AN' STUFF? THEY'RE ALL YOURS IF YUH DIVE FOR US!

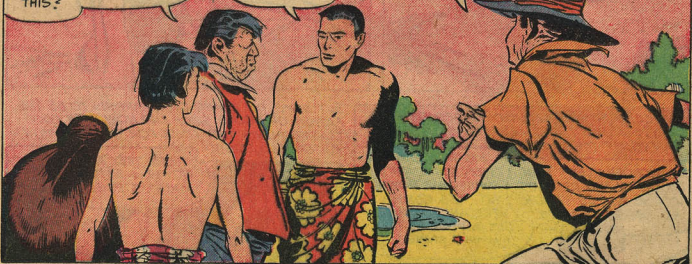
NO-NOT ENOUGH--
SUMO NO RISK LIFE FOR THAT!



OKAY, SUMO, OKAY! I KNOW YOU'LL DIVE IF WE GIVE YOU ENOUGH. WHAT ELSE DO YA WANT BESIDE ALL THIS?

WE WANT GOCO TO STAY HERE WITH MY BOY, SUKI, WHEN YOU LEAVE.

NOTHIN' DOIN'! THAT'S MY CHIMP, AN' HE'S WORTH SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS WHEN I GET HIM TO AUSTRALIA!



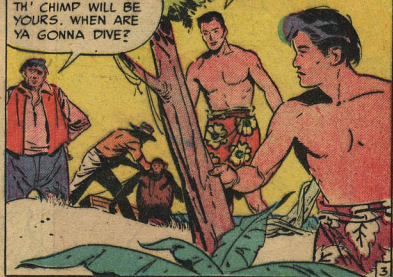
KEEP YER MOUTH SHUT, TWIGG!-- LOOK, SUMO, TELL YUH WHAT WE'LL DO! IF YOU DIVE AN' BRING UP AT LEAST TWO BIG PEARLS-- THEN YA GET ALL THESE THINGS--AN' COCO TOO!

OOF!



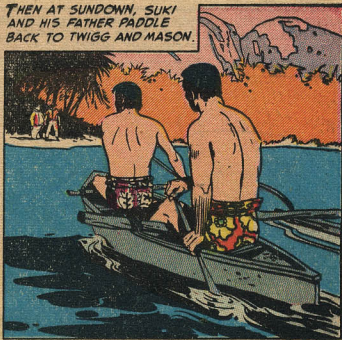
DON'T MIND MY PARTNER, TWIGG, SUMO. HE AIN'T GENEROUS LIKE ME! TH' CHIMP WILL BE YOURS. WHEN ARE YA GONNA DIVE?

SUMO WILL COME BACK AT SUNDOWN-- DIVE AT LOW TIDE.





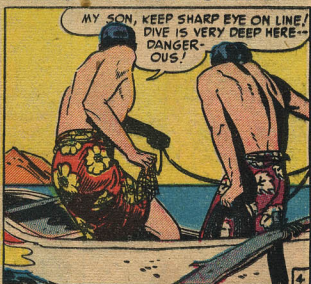
THEN AT SUNDOWN, SUKI AND HIS FATHER PADDLE BACK TO TWIGG AND MASON.



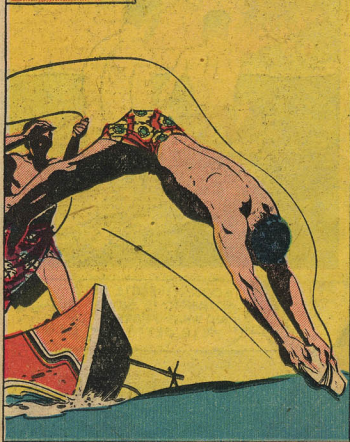
AND THE BLACK, SILENT WATERS OF THE LAGOON JEALOUSLY GUARD WHATEVER UNSEEN DANGERS LURK IN ITS DEPTHS...



REACHING THE SPOT INDICATED BY SUMO, PREPARATIONS ARE MADE TO DIVE, AND YOUNG SUKI ASSISTS HIS FATHER, WHO HOLDS A SMALL NET BAG ATTACHED TO A ROPE.



AND CLUTCHING A HEAVY STONE WHICH WILL QUICKEN HIS PLUNGE TO THE PEARL BEDS, SUMO GRACEFULLY DIVES INTO THE TWILIGHT WATERS OF THE LAGOON.



THERE IN THE SWIRLING WATERS OF THE LAGOON FLOOR, SUMO CREEPS ALONG, HIS FINGERS FEELING, AND HIS KEEN EYES SCANNING FOR SOME OF THE ELUSIVE OYSTERS THAT MIGHT HOLD THE PRECIOUS PEARLS.



SUMO WORKS FAST, AND HIS LUCK IS GOOD. SOON HIS SMALL NET BAG IS FILLED WITH OYSTERS, BUT AS HE SPRINGS UPWARD FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR, HIS FOOT GRAZES AN INNOCENT-LOOKING GIANT CLAM...

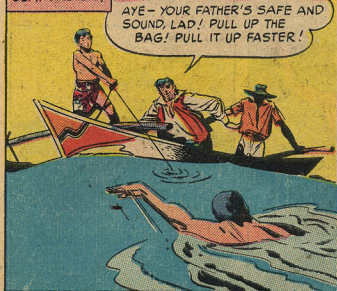
LIKE THE SNAP OF A TRAP, THE SLUGGISH DENIZEN OF THE DEEP ATTACKS ITS PREY... BUT THE WISE SUMO IS EVEN QUICKER—AND IS OUT OF HARM'S WAY...



... THEN UP TO THE SURFACE—WHERE YOUNG SUKI DRAWS AT THE LINE OF THE OYSTER BAG.

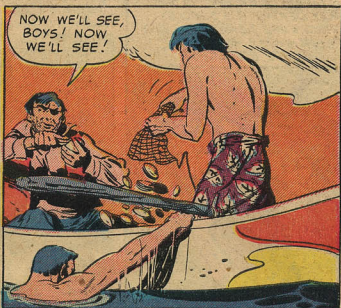


SUMO BREAKS THE SURFACE OF THE LAGOON, AND THE GREEDY HEARTS OF MASON AND TWIGG BEAT FASTER.



AYE - YOUR FATHER'S SAFE AND SOUND, LAD! PULL UP THE BAG! PULL IT UP FASTER!

AS SUKI EMPTIES THE OYSTERS FROM THE BAG, MASON GREEDILY BEGINS PRYING THEM OPEN.



NOW WE'LL SEE, BOYS! NOW WE'LL SEE!

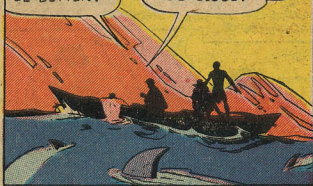
OF ALL THE BLOOMIN' LUCK! NOT A PEARL IN THE WHOLE BATCH! NOT A BLINKIN' ONE!

MOST OF THE TIME YOU **DON'T** FIND PEARLS! THEY ARE ONLY FOUND IN **SICK** OYSTERS!



G'WAN DOWN AGAIN, SUMO - MEBBE THE NEXT BATCH WILL BE BETTER!

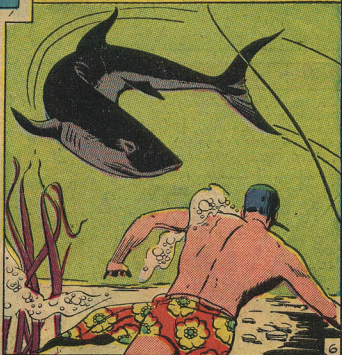
NO! SUMO NO DIVE RIGHT NOW-- SEE SHARKS-- THEY COME TOO CLOSE!



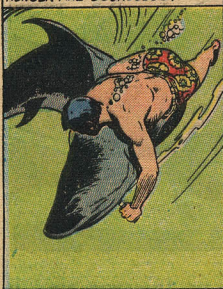
SUMO MAKES HIS SECOND DIVE, BUT AS HE REACHES THE LAGOON FLOOR, A VILLAIN OF THE TROPICAL WATERS HOVERS NEAR-- IT IS THE TREACHEROUS KILLER SHARK--

ALL RIGHT! SUMO TAKE ONE MORE CHANCE TO BE SURE MY SON GETS CHIMP...

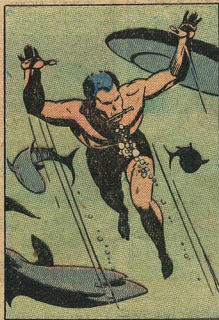
'AT'S TH' BOY, SUMO! GET US ANOTHER BAGFUL! YA GOT YER GOOD TRUSTY KNIFE FER THEM SHARKS!



THE RAZOR-TOOTHED MONSTER ATTACKS... AND THERE IN THE GREY DEPTHS IT'S SUMO'S BITING KNIFE AGAINST THE WILY KILLER, WHOSE HATE AND HUNGER ARE BOUNDLESS.



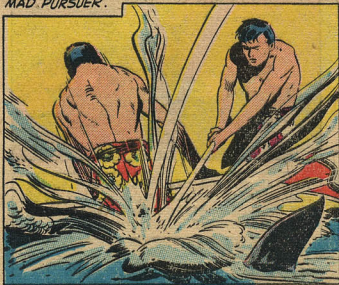
SUMO'S KNIFE IS THE WINNER! BUT NOW THE BODY OF HIS HALF-DEAD ATTACKER DRAWS OTHER RAVENOUS SHARKS TO THE SCENE!



BACK ON THE SURFACE, SUMO NEEDS HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH TO FIGHT OFF THE SHARKS IN HIS RACE TO THE BOAT.



SUMO LUNGES TO THE BOAT AND SAFETY--WITH LITTLE TO SPARE--FOR SUKI CRASHES A HEAVY PADDLE ON THE UGLY SNOOT OF A BLOOD-MAD PURSUER.



WELL, SUMO-- WE AIN'T GONNA LET *THAT* SCARE US, ARE WE? -----GO DOWN AGAIN! IT'S NOT WORTHWHILE T'COME OUT HERE AN' JUST YANK UP ONE LITTLE BAG OF OYSTERS! WHERE'S YER NERVE? GO DOWN AGAIN!

NO MORE DIVE... TOO MANY SHARKS NOW! WE GO BACK!



THEN--ON THE BEACH...

YA DIDN'T DO YER

JOB, SUMO! A BARGAIN'S A BARGAIN!... YA DIDN'T GET US ANY PEARLS... AN' WE EVEN LET YUH PICK YER OWN SPOT TO DIVE! BAH! A FINE CHIEF YOU ARE!!

WHAT?.. WHAT YOU SAY?



AS SUMO'S EYES BLAZE WITH ANGER, BULL MASON KNOWS THAT HE'S IN FOR TROUBLE--AND STEPPING FORWARD QUICKLY, HE GETS IN THE FIRST TREACHEROUS BLOW!

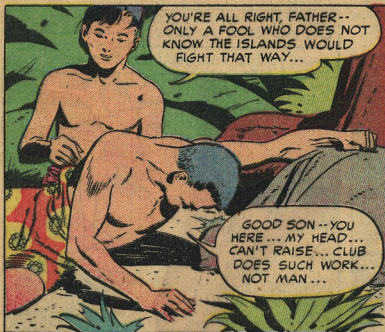
I SAID YER NOT MUCH OF A CHIEF!-AN' THIS IS HOW IM BACKIN' IT UP!



THE VICIOUS, SNEAK BLOW DROPS SUMO TO THE GROUND. AS HE LIES FACE DOWN, YOUNG SUKI KNEELS OVER HIM ...

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS, YOU COWARD!-- YOU'VE STRUCK A CHIEF! ONLY A FOOL WOULD EVER DO THAT!

G'WAN--WHO DO YA THINK YER SCARIN' KID?



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, FATHER-- ONLY A FOOL WHO DOES NOT KNOW THE ISLANDS WOULD FIGHT THAT WAY...

GOOD SON--YOU HERE... MY HEAD... CAN'T RAISE... CLUB DOES SUCH WORK... NOT MAN...

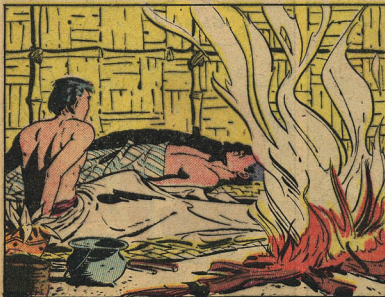
THEN, WHEN CHIEF SUMO IS ON HIS FEET--

THE BAD MEN WENT AWAY QUICKLY, FATHER, AND THEY TOOK MY GOOD FRIEND COCO!

I DO SOMETHING, SON! TOMORROW... COME-- WE GO HOME NOW...



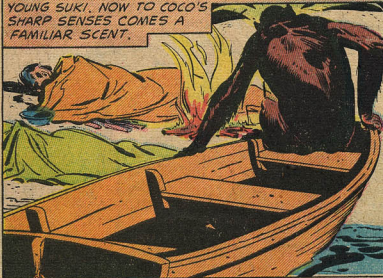
BUT THAT NIGHT SUKI CAN ONLY THINK OF HIS LOVABLE FRIEND, COCO--AND WHILE HIS FATHER SLEEPS SOUNDLY, THE YOUNG ISLAND BOY RISES QUIETLY FROM HIS MAT...



THEN, WITH THE WAVES SOFTLY LAPPING THE BEACH IN THE WARM, CLEAR TROPICAL NIGHT, YOUNG SUKI HURRIES BACK TO THE CAMP OF THE PEARL HUNTERS.



THE HUSH OF NIGHT HAS FALLEN ON THE CAMP OF MASON AND TWIGG... THEY SLEEP SOUNDLY- BUT COCO THE CHIMPANZEE IS WIDE AWAKE, TIED TO THE BOW OF THEIR BOAT. HE STIRS UNHAPPILY AND HIS THOUGHTS ARE OF YOUNG SUKI. NOW TO COCO'S SHARP SENSES COMES A FAMILIAR SCENT.

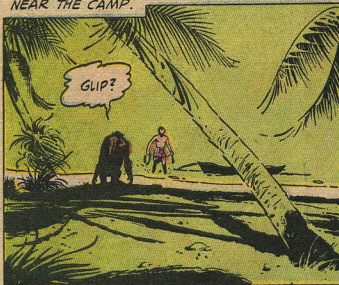


SH-H-H... OH, COCO!... HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU... SH-H... QUIET, FRIEND-- I KNOW HOW HAPPY YOU ARE TO SEE ME... STOP TALKING!

GLIP! GLIP! GLIP! GLIP!



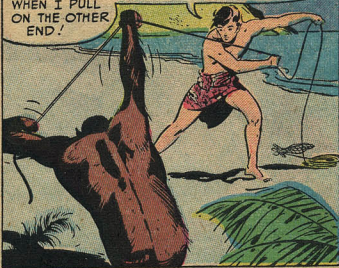
NOW FREE, AND WITH HIS GOOD FRIEND ONCE AGAIN, THE HAPPY COCO FOLLOWS SUKI TO THE NATIVE CANOE THAT SUKI AND HIS FATHER HAD LEFT NEAR THE CAMP.



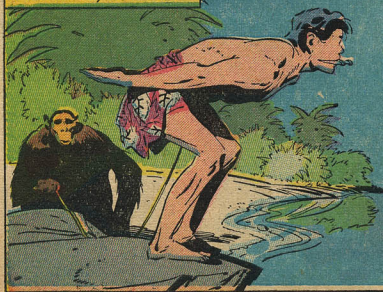
SUKI GETS THE PEARL BAG ROPE AND GIVES ONE END OF IT TO COCO.

THAT'S IT, COCO--I

WANT YOU TO PULL HARD ON THIS ROPE WHEN I PULL ON THE OTHER END!



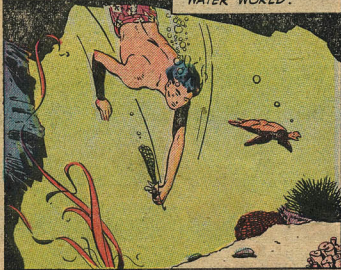
THEN SUKI GOES TO A LEDGE OVERLOOKING A DEEP PART OF THE LAGOON, AND WITH HIS KNIFE CLENCHED IN HIS TEETH, HE DIVES!



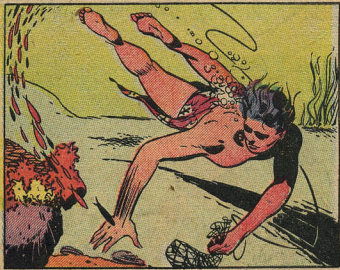
GLIP!



DOWN--DOWN PLUNGES SUKI--TO THE WHITE SANDS OF THE LAGOON FLOOR, AND EVEN AT THESE DEPTHS THE BRIGHT TROPICAL MOONLIGHT GIVES STARTLING CLEARNESS TO THE UNDERWATER WORLD.



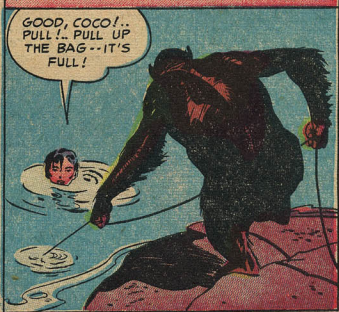
WORKING QUICKLY AT THE MOUTH OF A BLACK UNDERWATER CAVE, SUKI SOON FILLS HIS OYSTER BAG, AND HE HOPES WITH ALL HIS HEART THAT ONE OYSTER MAY HOLD THE PEARL THAT WILL BUY HIS FRIEND COCO FROM MASON AND TWIGG.



THEN, THE QUICK PULL ON THE ROPE THAT IS THE SIGNAL FOR COCO TO RAISE THE OYSTER BAG.



AND SUKI HIMSELF COMES TO THE SURFACE...

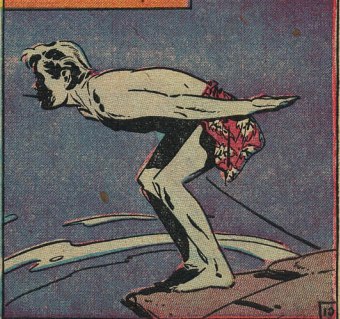


SUKI QUICKLY OPENS THE OYSTERS, AND LUCK IS WITH HIM...FOR THE LAST ONE HOLDS A FINE PEARL!

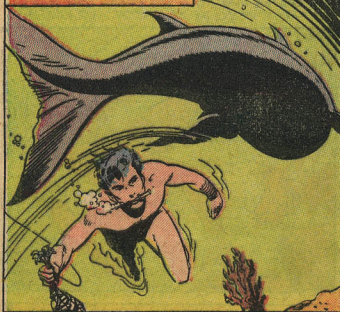
OH, COCO!.. WE'VE FOUND ONE!.. AND A GOOD ONE! BUT WE NEED **ONE MORE** BECAUSE MASON WANTED TWO PEARLS FOR YOU!



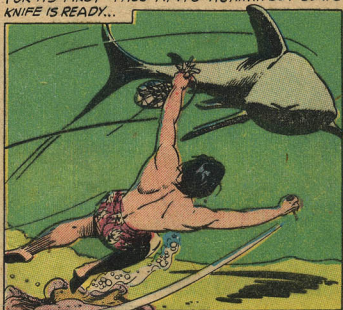
AND AGAIN SUKI DIVES



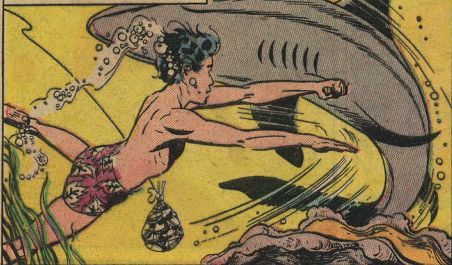
AGAIN SUKI FILLS HIS OYSTER BAG, BUT FROM THE YAWNING BLACK CAVE COMES THE PROWLING TIGER OF THE LAGOON.



THE DEADLY GAME HAS BEGUN!...IT'S THE KILLER INSTINCT OF THE SHARK AGAINST THE SKILL OF THE ISLAND BOY. THE SHARK MAKES AN EASY TURN FOR ITS FIRST "PASS" AT ITS VICTIM... BUT SUKI'S KNIFE IS READY...



THE BIG FISH SNAPS AT ITS HUMAN TARGET, BUT HE ISN'T THERE!... SUKI'S KNIFE SCORES TO THE VULNERABLE SPOT IN THE VILLAIN'S SOFT UNDERSIDE! WITH THIS STROKE THE CONTEST IS OVER, AND THE SHARK WILL SOON DIE!



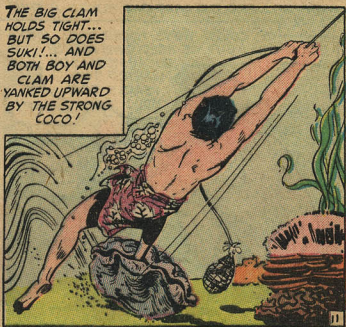
BUT IN THE GRIM BATTLE, SUKI HAS PASSED OVER ONE OF THE DREAD GIANT CLAMS-- AND IT CLOSES ON HIS FOOT!

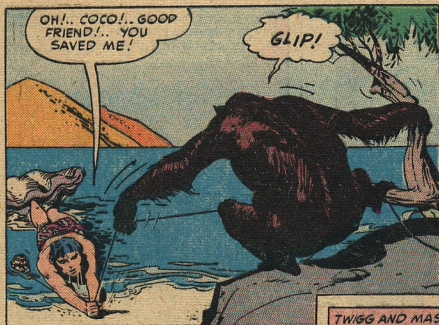


SUKI TUGS DESPERATELY ON THE LINE, AND UP ABOVE, THE FAITHFUL COCO, REMEMBERING HIS INSTRUCTIONS, QUICKLY DRAWS IT IN...

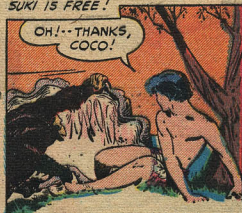


THE BIG CLAM HOLDS TIGHT... BUT SO DOES SUKI!... AND BOTH BOY AND CLAM ARE YANKED UPWARD BY THE STRONG COCO!





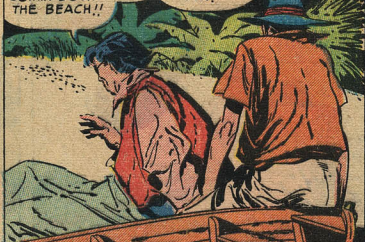
WITHOUT A WORD FROM SUKI, COCO KNOWS THE WORK TO BE DONE. HE GRASPS THE EDGES OF THE GLAM, HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES TIGHTEN, AS HE FORCES OPEN THE JAWS TO BREAK THE GIANT'S GRIP--AND SUKI IS FREE!



TWIGG AND MASON ARE NOW AWAKE, AND THEY MISS THE CHIMPANZEE...

WONDER HOW THAT MONK GOT LOOSE?-- HEY! WHAT'S THIS COMIN' DOWN THE BEACH!!

SURE ENOUGH! IT'S TH' KID AN TH' MONK! HE SNEAKED IN WHILE WE WERE ASLEEP AN' UNTIED HIM!



TWIGG QUICKLY PUTS THE HEAVY COLLAR BACK ON COCO'S NECK, WHILE SUKI HANDS THE PEARLS TO MASON-- BUT THE BRUTAL MASON THANKS THE BOY WITH A HEAVY CUFF THAT SENDS HIM REELING...



AND THEN... AS THE SECOND BAG OF OYSTERS IS OPENED, ANOTHER PEARL IS FOUND!



TAKING COCO WITH THEM, MASON AND TWIGG JUMP INTO THEIR BOAT AND ROW OFF ALONG THE SHORE, AS SUKI PICKS HIMSELF UP FROM THE GROUND.



STOP! STOP!
COCO IS MINE!

YOU CAN'T TAKE MY COCO! I GAVE YOU THE TWO PEARLS! COCO! COME BACK TO ME!



IN AN EFFORT TO FREE HIMSELF, COCO PULLS POWERFULLY ON THE BOAT ROPE THAT HOLDS HIM... THE CRAFT IS CAPSIZED, AND THE GREEDY PEARL SEEKERS ARE THROWN IN THE WATER.

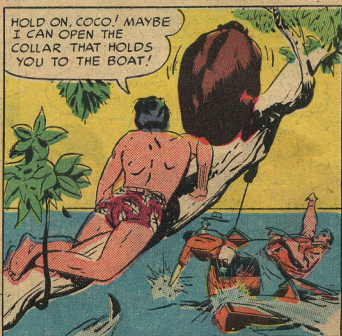
AND AT THAT MOMENT THE BOAT PASSES UNDER A LOW OVERHANGING LIMB-- WITH HIS LONG ARMS AND A MIGHTY SPRING, THE CHIMPANZEE CLUTCHES IT-- AND HOLDS TIGHT!



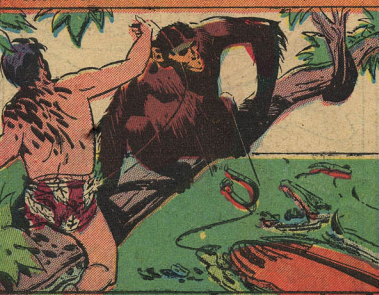
THAT CRAZY CHIMP! WHAT'S HE UP TO?

GLIP!

HOLD ON, COCO! MAYBE I CAN OPEN THE COLLAR THAT HOLDS YOU TO THE BOAT!



THEN, AS SUKI FREES COCO FROM THE COLLAR, SHRILL CRIES PIERCE THE QUIET OF THE LAGOON-- FOR THE PROWLING SHARKS HAVE COME UPON PREY!



THE ISLANDS HAVE THEIR MYSTERIES AND THEIR JUSTICES-- JUSTICES THAT CAN BE FAST AND STRANGE FOR THOSE OF BRUTALITY AND INFAMY-- INFAMY SUCH AS THE INSULT TO AN ISLAND CHIEF...

I GUESS THIS MEANS THAT WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, NOW, COCO, AND I PROMISE THAT I WILL ALWAYS LISTEN CAREFULLY WHEN YOU TALK TO ME!



GLIP-GLIP
GLIP-GLIP-GLIP-

Buddies! Sweethearts!

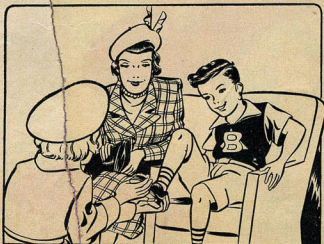
SHOW YOUR MOM WHY THIS IS TRUE!



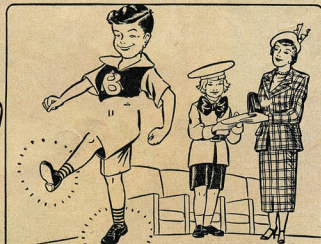
"FIRST OF ALL, BUSTER BROWN SHOES ARE SHAPED TO FIT! THEY'RE MADE ON 'LIVE FOOT' LASTS, JUST THE SHAPE OF YOUR OWN FEET, SO YOUR SHOES ALWAYS GIVE SNUG SUPPORT WHERE YOU NEED IT!"



"THEN THE BUSTER BROWN SHOEMAN CAREFULLY MEASURES THE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF BOTH YOUR FEET. HE GIVES YOU THE RIGHT SIZE, LEAVING THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF 'WIGGLE-ROOM' AT THE TOES."



"HEEL FIT IS CHECKED, TOO, TO MAKE SURE IT'S WIDE ENOUGH AT THE BOTTOM AND SNUG ENOUGH AT THE TOP. YOUR BUSTER BROWN SALESMAN WOULD RATHER MISS A SALE THAN SEND YOU OUT IN A SHOE THAT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOUR FOOT."



"THAT'S WHY YOU GET A SHOE THAT FEELS AS GOOD AS IT IS GOOD FOR YOU, AND YOUR BUSTER BROWN SHOEMAN ALSO CAN TELL MOTHER WHEN YOUR SHOE SIZE WILL NEED RE-CHECKING."

The style stars of

**BUSTER
BROWN'S**

Easter Parade

Look 'em over, kids! They're the extra-special
Easter beauties your friendly Buster Brown
shoeman has for you. Tell mom you
want your pair right away.

